

1. Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

This document includes written responses to written comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) prepared for the proposed San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan Update (proposed Project or proposed Plan), and presents revisions to the Draft EIR, including Mitigation Measures and the proposed Plan made after circulation of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR identified significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed Plan, examined alternatives, and recommended feasible mitigation measures that can avoid or reduce the identified adverse impacts.

This document, together with the Draft EIR, constitute the Final EIR that the San Joaquin River Conservancy (Conservancy) Board will consider certifying under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) before considering approval of the proposed Plan.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

CEQA requires lead agencies to consult with public agencies having jurisdiction over resources that may be affected by a proposed project and to provide the general public with an opportunity to comment on a Draft EIR. This Final EIR has been prepared to provide written response to comments received on the Draft EIR prepared for the proposed Plan and made available for public review for 60 days from May 1, 2017 through June 29, 2017. The Draft EIR was distributed to local, regional, and State agencies and the general public was advised of the availability of the Draft EIR. Copies of the Draft EIR were made available for review to interested parties at:

- San Joaquin River Conservancy, 5469 E. Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727
- Woodward Park Regional Library, 944 E. Perrin Avenue, Fresno, CA 93720
- Online: <http://sjrc.ca.gov>

Complete copies of all written comments received on the Draft EIR are included in Appendix H of this document. A reproduction of the comments extracted from the comment letters and written responses to those comments are included in Chapter 5, Comments and Responses, of this Final EIR.

The Final EIR will be presented to the Conservancy Board for review and certification as part of their consideration of the proposed Plan. All persons who commented on the Draft EIR will be notified of the availability of the Final EIR and the date of the public Board hearing. Public input is encouraged at all public hearings before the Board.

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Public agencies that submitted comments on the Draft EIR will be provided with written responses to their comments at least 10 days before the Conservancy considers certifying the Final EIR. As part of its consideration of the proposed Plan, CEQA requires the Conservancy to make findings regarding the extent and nature of the impacts as presented in the Final EIR.

1.3 FINAL EIR REPORT ORGANIZATION

This document is organized into the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction.** This chapter discusses the use and organization of this document.
- **Chapter 2: Executive Summary.** This chapter provides a summary of: the proposed project; environmental review procedures; alternatives examined; significant impacts and mitigation measures identified in the Draft EIR; and other conclusions from the Draft EIR.
- **Chapter 3: Revisions to the Draft EIR.** This chapter presents revisions and corrections to the text and graphics of the Draft EIR and the Master Plan Update. Underline text represents language that has been added, and text with ~~strikethrough~~ represents language that has been deleted.
- **Chapter 4: List of Commenters.** This chapter provides a list of agencies and individuals who commented on the Draft EIR.
- **Chapter 5: Comments and Responses.** This chapter lists the comments received from agencies and the public on the Draft EIR, and provides responses to those comments.
- **Appendices.** The appendices for this document contain the following supporting documents:
 - Appendix H: Comment Letters including any attachments
 - Appendix I: City of Fresno 2035 General Plan Update Consistency Analysis